THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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Strauss

April 27, 1964

Dear Mr. Habermas,

You have obliged me very much by sending me your book on theory and practice. Apart from the fact that it was very useful to me for giving me a better notion than I had before about the state of discussion in Germany, I was very much pleased to make the acquaintance of a man of such qualities as you. I was especially pleased with your critique of positivism. On the other hand I cannot deny that I cannot share your own views. It is even difficu t for me to understand your own position. You make so profound changes in the Marxian doctrine that your own basis does not become clear. I would have been better able to follow you if you had written a criticism of Kojève. I also wonder whether one cannot turn your able critique of Löwith, namely regarding his abstractness, in particular his evading the issue of capital punishment, against you: even granting that the universal social democracy is the only way in which a humane human race can now survive, one must not abstract from the power of the enemies of that democracy, i.e. of Russia and China, and the burning practical implications of the conflict (e.g. the division of Germany): only by abstracting from these things can one regard disarmament as a practical proposal. The "impossibility" of war existed already in Hegel's time, and yet...

I cannot speak here of the theoretical issues. I asked my publisher to send you my recent book which I hope may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

L Strauss